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Vlone Harbor

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## SOURCE

- 1. The Punta Linguetta area of Vlone harbor has no fixed constructions in gement or wood. The three gun positions here are protected by low walls of stone and camouflaged with shrubs and boughs.
- 2. Beginning at the point (Punta Linguetta), the first gun position contains a machine gun of the Breda type, on a tripod, caliber 20 mm. The second position contains an anti-tank type gun on a wheeled caisson. The caliber is not less than 50 mm. and has a muzzle brake. The third position contains a gun identical with the second. Shortly beyond the positions on a higher level of the peninsula there are old buildings recently refitted and surrounded by trees and shrubs. A large number of soldiers were noted in this locality which is assumed to be a barracks area for a gun garrison. The positions and barracks are joined by a visible telephone line.
- In the Punta S. Giovanni area there is an opening of the net barrier with two positions, each protected by a small stone wall and well-camouflaged. Each position contains anti-tank pieces similar to those mentioned in paragraph 1 above.
- 4. At Saseno, on the northwest part of the summit of the island, four large constructions of a bunker type of equal dimension and equal in distance from each other were noted. On the southwest part of the island guarding the canal, a few meters from the sea, two visible artillery pieces of anti-tank type were observed. The southeast coast of the island was very closely examined but showed no signs of cavities or work indicating the presence of submarine pens.
- 5. In the Vlone Bay there is a refinery, recently constructed, near an oil pipe line. North and left of the pipe line (from the sea side) there are four large buildings in an advanced stage of construction, evidently for use as military barracks.
- 6. The Soviet Navy auxiliary ship FEOLENT is anchored at Vlone. According to the Albanian commandant of Vlone port (formerly a non-commissioned officer in the Italian Navy), Vlone, Saseno and the surrounding area are completely in Soviet hands. Even the Albanian military elements are restricted in their movements and activity,

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- 7. Neither on Saseno or the mainland was it possible to see submarine pens or other works of a military character. New construction visible from Vlone to Krionero consisted of two low, long structures, eight large buildings (warehouses?) in part completed and in part under construction and a complex of buildings near the oil pipe line which are probably part of the refinery.
- 8. According to declarations of the Soviets, there were no Soviet army or navy personnel on the mainland. However, in conversations overheard among the Russians, it was stated that there is a Soviet Navy headquarters at Vione commanded by an officer with the rank of navy captain. Military elements seen on Punta Linguetta and those on guard at the base of Vione mole, where Italian submarines were docked, wore Siberian coats. Kitchen equipment brought aboard the vessel for Soviet officers bore the initials "K.A." (Krasnaia Armia Red Army).
- 9. Traffic of the port was very small, according to Albanians with whom the Italian commander talked. This was borne out by four days of Italian observation. During this period the only vessels seen were the FEOLENT, an old tug, three motor boats and four or five fishing boats. The tug was of the Italian Navy TANAC type, flew the Albanian flag and was armed with a 20 mm. machine gun on the stern and an 8 mm. machine gun amidship. One of the fishing vessels was a former Italian fishing vessel NUOVO GIUSEPPE recently captured by the Albanians. This vessel is disarmed, but has a military crew aboard. The motor boats observed were of the air rescue type, armed with a 13 mm. machine gun on the stern and an 8 mm. machine gun on the
- 10. The net (presumably submarine) construction runs from Point S. Giovanni towards Cape Treporte. The extreme northeast portion of the obstruction was visible. It is believed that it is probably the old Italian construction obstruction. Some of the portions between the buoys have the net in place (buoys were under tension); others, however, have not.
- 11. According to an Albanian officer who has strong Communist sentiments, four railroad lines are now under construction in Albania (it was not possible to ascertain locations). There is daily air service between Albania and USSR, he said.

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